

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
July 17, 2002
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

The meeting of the California High-Speed Rail Authority was called to order on July 17 at 9:30 a.m. at San Jose City Hall, 801 North First Street, San Jose, California.

Members Present: Rod Diridon, Chairperson
 Dr. Ernest A. Bates
 Jerry Epstein
 Fran Florez
 Ben L. Hom
 Joseph E. Petrillo

Members Absent: Leland Wong, Vice Chairperson
 William E. Leonard
 T.J. Stapleton

Approval of Minutes for June 19, 2002 Meeting

Chairperson Diridon presented the minutes for approval. Member Epstein moved to approve the June 19, 2002 meeting minutes. Member Bates seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

Authority Members' Meetings for Compensation

Chairperson Diridon presented the list of meetings for compensation for approval. The list of meetings for compensation was approved by consent, 6-0.

Election of Officers

Member Bates nominated Rod Diridon for Chairperson. Member Bates also nominated both Member Jerry Epstein and Member Fran Florez for Vice Chairperson. Member Epstein moved to approve all three appointment and the motions were carried by consent, 6-0.

Public Comment

Cindy Chavez, Councilmember, City of San Jose

Councilmember Chavez welcomed the Authority to San Jose. She reported transportation and traffic congestion relief are a top concern of Bay Area residents, San Jose in particular. Santa Clara County is a statewide leader in the support for transit and roadway improvements. The City of San Jose has been a leading advocate of high-speed rail and envisions an expanded Diridon Station, which the City hopes will serve as a rail hub to the Bay Area. The City of San Jose looks forward to the day when high-speed comes to Silicon Valley and is happily planning for its arrival. The City of San Jose supports Senate Bill 1856, authored by Senator Costa.

Members Reports

Chairperson Diridon reported he averages 15 high-speed rail presentations per month. He encouraged the staff to notify all of the Board Members about speaking opportunities.

Executive Director's Report

Chairperson Diridon reported that Executive Director Morshed is absent from the meeting today due to illness. Therefore, Deputy Director Dan Leavitt will assume the Executive Director's responsibilities during the presentations. Deputy Director Leavitt reported the State Legislature has not passed the proposed state budget. With the federal funds left over from fiscal year 2001/2002, the Authority's consultant teams have begun the detailed analysis on the routes that remain for further investigation. The program management team created the framework, environmental criteria methodologies and methodologies that will guide the environmental impact analysis.

Chairperson Diridon reported U.S. Senator Feinstein has requested a \$4.8 million appropriation in the next federal fiscal year for the California High-Speed Rail Authority to continue its work toward the construction of this project. The Authority has received copies of letters the City of Irvine in support of the \$4.8 million federal appropriation. Any individuals who care to send letters to Senator Feinstein; Senator Boxer; or Representative Pelosi, in support of the \$4.8 million federal appropriation would be appreciated.

Bay Area-Merced Alignments Update

Deputy Director Dan Leavitt introduced Dave Mansen, Project Manager of Parsons Transportation Group. Mr. Mansen delivered a presentation describing the high-speed train alignments for further evaluation between the Bay Area and the Central Valley and gave an update of the engineering work underway in the region. A copy of this presentation is available upon request.

Public Comment

Margaret Okazumi, Bay Area Rail Alliance

Ms. Okazumi expressed support for a station location at the Transbay Terminal in San Francisco.

Allan Miller, Train Riders Association of California

Mr. Miller expressed he felt that certain data in one of the Authority's reports pertaining to the Bay Area-Merced preferred alignments are incomplete and that the travel time from San Francisco to Sacramento, as published in one of the Authority's reports is not accurate. Mr. Miller also expressed his opposition to the Diablo Range Direct alignment claiming it is most costly and environmentally unfriendly.

Chairperson Diridon stated the Authority has already responded to TRAC regarding many of these concerns, but would respond to Mr. Miller's questions in writing.

Nate Marchoci, City of Los Banos

Mr. Marchoci expressed support for the Pacheco Pass alignment and a station location in Los Banos.

Larry Miller, San Joaquin Rail Committee

Mr. Miller expressed appreciation to Chairperson Diridon for his presentation at the Rail Committee's meeting last Friday in Martinez.

Walter Strakosch

Mr. Strakosch commented on the Bay Area to Merced corridor. Mr. Strakosch expressed support for the Altamont Pass alignment, which is no longer being investigated by the Authority.

San Jose/Silicon Valley Presentation

Hans Larsen, City of San Jose Department of Transportation presented an overview of Diridon Station expansion plans, downtown land uses, San Jose Airport expansion and local goals for high-speed train service as well as the potential economic impacts of the proposed high-speed rail system. The following City of San Jose and Silicon Valley representatives participated in this presentation:

- James Pierson, Director of Planning and Development of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority discussed the City of San Jose's integrate transit systems.

- Susan Shick, Executive Director of the San Jose Redevelopment Agency discussed the expansion of Diridon Station and downtown land use planning.
- Dave Maas, Assistant Director of the San Jose Airport discussed the City of San Jose's Airport interest with the high-speed rail program.
- Jim Tucker, Vice President of the San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce and Laura Stuchinsky, Director of Transportation and Land Use of the Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group discussed San Jose/Silicon Valley's economic interests in the proposed high-speed rail project

A copy of this presentation is available upon request.

Public Comment

Allan Miller, Train Riders Association of California

Mr. Miller expressed support for San Jose to have it's own main rail line and noted that the Authority had forecast higher ridership for San Francisco. He also advocated for additional tracks through out the Central Valley that bypass towns and serve express trains.

John Ferdinandi, Fresno Area Residents for Rail Consolidation (FARRC); Fresno Mayor's Rail Consolidation Task Force

Mr. Ferdinandi stated Fresno is the fifth largest city in California and soon to be the sixth largest city. He stated the cooperation and assistance from Authority staff is outstanding. Fresno very strongly supports high-speed rail and a downtown station location and encourages the Authority to consider a loop for express trains more closely. Mr. Ferdinandi invited the Authority to meet in Fresno.

Identification of Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next Authority Board meeting is scheduled on August 21, 2002 in Fresno, CA. The September 18th Board meeting will be in the Los Angeles area.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.